

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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R 242120Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6379

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK TALKS

REF: NEW DELHI 9805

1. PAK DELEGATION MEMBER, ABDUL SATTAR, CONFIRMED TO POL COUNSELOR AUGUST 24 INFO IN REFTEL ON INDO-PAK AGREEMENT ON POWS AND BENGALLEES. PAKS HAVE SOUGHT FURTHER CONCESSION FROM BANGLADESH IN TERMS SOME REDUCTION FROM 195 TO SMALLER NUMBER TO HELP SWEETEN DOMESTIC POLITICAL POT, BUT ARE PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THIS PART OF AGREEMENT EVEN WITHOUT THIS. INDIANS HAVE TOLD PAKS THEY WILL CONTINUE TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO PERSUADE SHEIKH MUJIB TO SHIFT HIS POSITION ON TRIALS AND PAKS HAVE AGREED TO RELY ON THIS.

2. BIHARI ISSUE REMAINS UNRESOLVED AFTER YESTERDAY'S MEETING. PAKS HAVE TOLD INDIAN SIDE THEY HAVE NO MANEUVER ROOM ON NUMBERS BYOND 50,000 PLUS 20,000 HARSHIP CASES. THIS IS SAME
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POSITION GIVEN INDIANS AT ISLAMABAD MEETINGS AND PAKS HAVE

NOT BUDGED. SATTAR SAID SIND CHIEF MINISTER MUMTAZ BHUTTO HAD TOLD PM BHUTTO 20,000 WAS MAXIMUM SIND COULD ABSORB BEYOND THE 50,000 PAKS HAD ALREADY AGREED TO TAKE. LARGE PROPORTION OF 50,000 CONSISTS OF WEST PAK RESIDENTS TO GOP AND GOEP OFFICIALS AND BIHARIS ALREADY IN NEPAL. PAKS IN EFFECT ARE AGREEING TO TAKE VIRTUALLY NO SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED BIHARI CAMP EWELLERS. FURTHERMORE, SATTAR SAID, GOP HAS AT NO POINT TOLD THE INDIANS (AND BANGLADESH) THAT IT WOULD DEFINITELY TAKE MORE BIHARIS AT SOME FUTURE TIME BUT ONLY THAT THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED BILATERALLY BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH IN THE FUTURE. SATTAR SAID IF INDIANS CONTINUE TO PRESS ON INCREASE IN NUMBERS OF BIHARIS, THE TALKS COULD VERY WELL BE ADJOURNED TODAY WITH NO AGREEMENT. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, SATTAR SAID, THE INDIANS HAVE HELD PAK POWS FOR 20 MONTHS AND THEY CAN CONTINUE TO HOLD THEM FOR ANOTHER 20 BUT IT IS SIMPLY NOT POLITICALLY FEASIBLE FOR PAKISTAN TO ACCEPT MORE BIHARIS.

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